DOCTOR STRANGE
12¢ IND.
180 MAY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
DR. STRANGE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ETERNITY, ETERNITY!

...AND NOW, ALONE HE STANDS IN THIS WONDROUS, WINDSWEPT WORLD...ALONE BUT FOR THE SOUND OF HIS OWN VOICE, SHOUTING---
ETERNITY
CAN'T REMEMBER WHERE I AM... OR HOW I CAME TO THIS BANEFUL, BARREN WASTE-LAND!
I KNOW ONLY THAT I MUST SEEK OUT THE LONG-LOST BEING CALLED ETERNITY...
OR ELSE...THE EARTH SHALL PERISH!!
A MASTERWORK OF THE MACABRE BY:
STAN LEE EDITOR
ROY THOMAS WRITER
GENE COLAN ARTIST
INKED AND EMBELLISHED BY:
TOM PALMER
LETTERED AND RELISHED BY:
SAM ROSEN

THERE HE IS... LOOMING BEFORE ME...
ETERNITY!
WHY STAND YOU THUS IN STUPEFIED AMAZEMENT?
DID YOU THINK ME DESTROYED... WHEN YOU ONCE BEHELD ME LOCKED IN BATTLE WITH THE DREAD DORMAMMU?
I ALWAYS SUPPOSED THAT I DID!*
YET, NOW I SENSE THAT... I ALWAYS KNEW YOU STILL SURVIVED... SOMEHOW, SOMEWHERE!
EVEN, DORMAMMU COULD NOT HAVE OBLITERATED ONE TO WHOM THE EONS ARE BUT MOMENTS...
...ONE WHO IS THE VERY PERSONIFICATION OF TIME ITSELF!!
*AS PERHAPS DID YOU, IF YOU WERE PRIVILEGED TO GLIMPSE STRANGE TALES #138! --- STAN.
2.

WAIT! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO HIM...!
HE'S CHANGING... UNDERGOING SOME DREAD METAMORPHOSIS!
INSTEAD OF ETERNITY, BEFORE ME NOW STANDS THE DREAD FORM OF...
THE ONE CALLED NIGHTMARE!!
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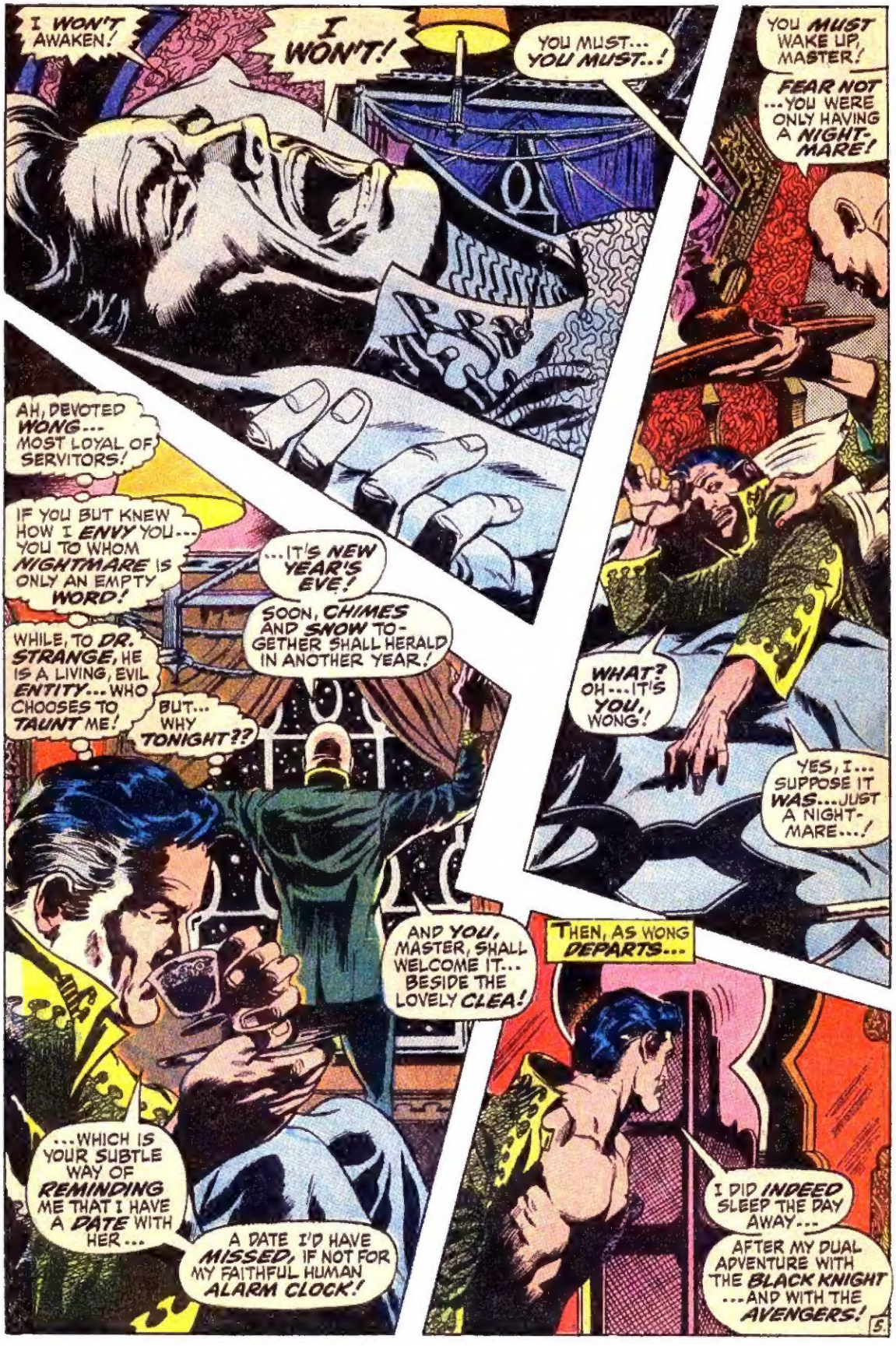
THEN, THIS LAND OF MISTS AND SHADOWS IS A MERE DREAM WORLD!
I HAVE BUT TO AWAKEN, AND I'LL HAVE CROSSED ONCE MORE THE BOUNDARY TO REALITY...AND SAFETY!
AY, MORTAL... BUT DO SO SWIFTLY!
FOR, THE TIME IS AT HAND WHEN THERE SHALL BE NO MORE BOUNDARY 'TWIXT FACT AND PHANTASM!
AND IN THAT HOUR... YOUR WORLD SHALL DIE!
THEN, YOU CONFRONTED ME THUS, IN A DREAM, ONLY TO MOCK ME!
BUT, WHY... AND HOW DOES YOUR HIDDEN PLAN CONCERN THE LONG-VANISHED ETERNITY??
THAT YOU SHALL KNOW ANON!
FOR NOW, IT SUITS MY PURPOSE THAT YOU SHOULD... AWAKEN!
NO!
I'LL NOT BE BANISHED FROM YOUR SIGHT, AT YOUR SLIGHTEST WHIM!
I SHALL NOT AWAKEN!

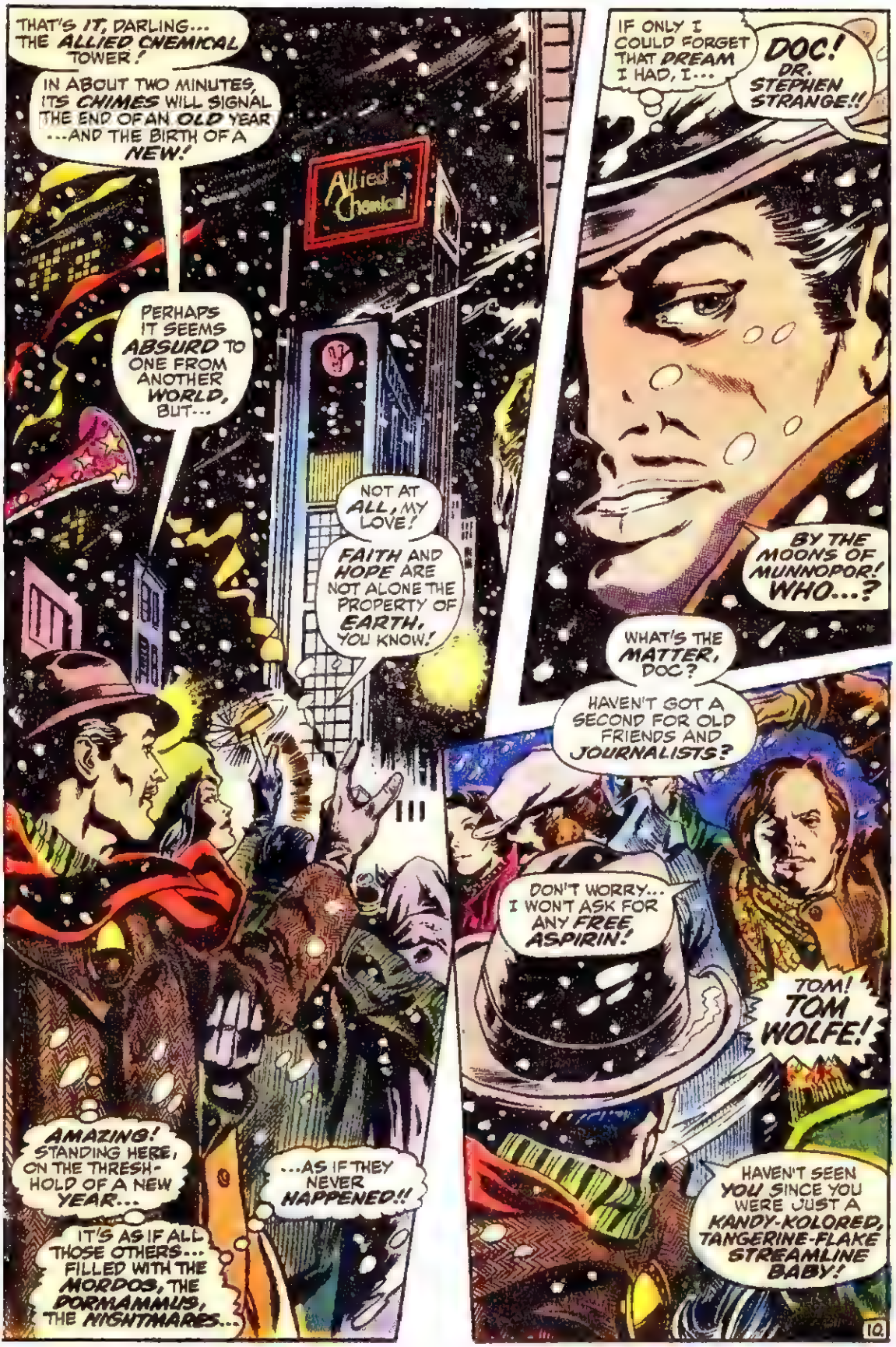

I WON'T AWAKEN!
I WON'T!
YOU MUST... YOU MUST..!
YOU MUST WAKE UP, MASTER!
FEAR NOT ...YOU WERE ONLY HAVING A NIGHT-MARE!
AH, DEVOTED WONG... MOST LOYAL OF SERVITORS!
IF YOU BUT KNEW HOW I ENVY YOU... YOU TO WHOM NIGHTMARE IS ONLY AN EMPTY WORD!
...IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE!
SOON, CHIMES AND SNOW TO-GETHER SHALL HERALD IN ANOTHER YEAR!
WHILE, TO DR. STRANGE, HE IS A LIVING, EVIL ENTITY... WHO CHOOSES TO TAUNT ME!
BUT... WHY TONIGHT??
WHAT? OH... IT'S YOU, WONG!
YES, I... SUPPOSE IT WAS... JUST A NIGHT-MARE...!
AND YOU, MASTER, SHALL WELCOME IT... BESIDE THE LOVELY CLEA!
THEN, AS WONG DEPARTS...
...WHICH IS YOUR SUBTLE WAY OF REMINDING ME THAT I HAVE A DATE WITH HER...
A DATE I'D HAVE MISSED, IF NOT FOR MY FAITHFUL HUMAN ALARM CLOCK!
I DID INDEED SLEEP THE DAY AWAY...
AFTER MY DUAL ADVENTURE WITH THE BLACK KNIGHT ...AND WITH THE AVENGERS!
5

I MUST KEEP MY APPOINTMENT WITH CLEA, WHO IS NEW TO OUR WORLD!
BUT, I DON'T DARE OVERLOOK THE THREAT MADE BY NIGHTMARE ...THE MENACE OF HIS EVERY MANNERISM!
THUS, I SHALL WEAR THE GARB OF THE SORCERER SUPREME!
STILL, LEST CLEA SENSE MY DARK SECRET...
AND IT DAMPEN THE REVELRY OF THE MOMENT...
LET HER... AND ALL OTHERS... BEHOLD ME SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY...!
TONIGHT, I PRAY THERE WILL BE NO MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS...
BUT ONLY ...A MAN IN LOVE!
AND ALL PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED, STEPHEN STRANGE... BUT TO SOME, THE ANSWER IS... NO!
6

GOOD EVENING, STEPHEN!
I'M READY FOR WHAT YOU CALL ...OUR DATE!
AND NO GIRL OF ANY WORLD EVER LOOKED LOVELIER, CLEA!
STILL, I DON'T THINK YOUR OUTFIT WAS DESIGNED FOR SLUDGING THRU THE SNOW!
SNOW? I'VE HEARD THAT WORD...
BUT, I'VE NEVER KNOWN JUST WHAT IT MEANT!
THEN YOU SHALL KNOW, MY LOVE... AND SOON!
YET, I DON'T WANT YOU CATCHING A CASE OF INTER-DIMENSIONAL SNIFFLES!
SO...
A SIMPLE SPELL...
OHHH..!
...AND YOU'LL BE READY FOR TIMES SQUARE...
...IF IT IS READY FOR YOU!!
A NEW COAT... EVEN A HAT... FORMED FROM THE VERY AIR!
ONLY ONE GIRL IN A COSMOS HAS SUCH A SUITOR AS YOU, DEAR STEPHEN!
7

THEN, LET'S JOIN THE HAPPY REVELERS BELOW...
BEFORE IT'S TOO WARM FOR YOU TO WEAR THAT COAT!
AND THIS, MY DEAR, IS SNOW!
MANY PEOPLE ON MY WORLD, TOO, HAVE NEVER SEEN IT!
...WHILE MANY OTHERS WISH THEY HADN'T!
IT'S LIKE RAIN...
BUT COLDER...; SOFTER...!
AND HERE I AM WITHOUT SO MUCH AS AN UMBRELLA!
UMBRELLA? YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOU'RE OUT WITH A DEMON SORCERER!
A SIMPLE MAGICAL PASS... AND NOT SO MUCH AS A SNOW-FLAKE WILL MUSS YOUR MAKEUP!
I... LIKE THIS... "SNOW"!
WHAT? DON'T YOU DARE, STEPHEN STRANGE!
EH?
8.

WELL, THEN, IN KEEPING WITH OUR NEW NOTHING-MAGICAL POLICY...
I'LL LET THAT CAB SUBSTITUTE FOR MY CLOAK OF LEVITATION TONIGHT!
SARC!
TAXI!
HMMM...HE'S NOT OFF-DUTY... MUST BE A NEW FELLA!
WHAT, STEPHEN? I DON'T...
LOCAL JOKE, CLEA...FORGET IT!
AS NEAR TIMES SQUARE AS YOU CAN GET, DRIVER... AND HURRY!
AT A HALF-HOUR TILL MIDNIGHT, MISTER...
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WUZ HEADIN' FOR THE ART MUSEUM!
RELAX! I AIN'T LOST A PASSENGER YET!
JUST THE SAME, 25 MINUTES AND A COUPLE OF TRAFFIC JAMS LATER...
LET US OUT HERE, FRIEND!
WE CAN WALK THE LAST FEW BLOCKS!
SURE...AN' HAPPY NEW YEAR, BUDDY!
...I FEEL EXHILARATED... ALIVE...FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS!
TO WALK AMONG PEOPLE AGAIN... JUST ONE FACE IN AN EVER-SHIFTING CROWD...!
TAKES ME BACK TO WHEN I WAS JUST STEPHEN STRANGE, M.D.---NOT A SORCERER!
STEPHEN ...UP THERE!
WONDER WHAT IT'D BE LIKE TO LAY ASIDE MY CLOAK AND AMULET...
TO BEGIN A NEW LIFE...A NORMAL LIFE... WITH CLEA AT MY SIDE...!
IS THAT THE TOWER YOU SPOKE OF BEFORE?
9.


THAT'S IT, DARLING... THE ALLIED CHEMICAL TOWER!
IN ABOUT TWO MINUTES, ITS CHIMES WILL SIGNAL THE END OF AN OLD YEAR ...AND THE BIRTH OF A NEW!
Allied Chemical
PERHAPS IT SEEMS ABSURD TO ONE FROM ANOTHER WORLD, BUT...
NOT AT ALL, MY LOVE!
FAITH AND HOPE ARE NOT ALONE THE PROPERTY OF EARTH, YOU KNOW!
AMAZING! STANDING HERE, ON THE THRESHHOLD OF A NEW YEAR...
...AS IF THEY NEVER HAPPENED!!
IT'S AS IF ALL THOSE OTHERS... FILLED WITH THE MORDOS, THE DORMAMMUS, THE NIGHTMARES...
IF ONLY I COULD FORGET THAT DREAM I HAD, I...
DOC! DR. STEPHEN STRANGE!!
BY THE MOONS OF MUNNOPOR! WHO...?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DOC?
HAVEN'T GOT A SECOND FOR OLD FRIENDS AND JOURNALISTS?
DON'T WORRY... I WON'T ASK FOR ANY FREE ASPIRIN!
TOM! TOM WOLFE!
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE YOU WERE JUST A KANDY-KOLORED, TANGERINE-FLAKE STREAMLINE BABY!

AND THAT'S BEEN A LOOOONG TIME!
WHO'S THE FLOWER-CHILD? OUT-OF-TOWNER?
YOU MIGHT SAY THAT!
THE NAME IS CLEA... AND SHE SPEAKS ENGLISH, TOM!
DROP BY FOR BRUNCH SOMETIME, HEAR?
...AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE, CLEA... HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE '64..!
WAIT, DARLING!
BONG
BONG
THE CLOCK'S SOUNDING THE NEW YEAR!
LISTEN!
YES, LISTEN, STEPHEN STRANGE...TO THE BELL WHICH TOLLS FOR MERRIMENT AND RESOUNDING HOPE...
BONG
IT'S ALMOST 1969, DOLL!
HOW'S ABOUT A KISS TO START THE NEW YEAR?
EH?
YOUR CONTACTS ARE FOGGED UP, SON...
LISTEN... AND TRY TO TELL YOURSELF THAT YOU DON'T HEAR THE SOUND OF HOLLOW, MOCKING LAUGHTER IN EACH GRIM, GREY ECHO...!

...UNLESS YOU ENJOY TALKING TO LAMPPOSTS!
A SPELL OF TEMPORAL DISPLACEMENT WILL COOL HIM OFF!
HUH?
I WUZ ROBBED!
BUT THEN, THE FRIVOLITY OF A FLEETING MOMENT IS FORGOTTEN-- AS THE TENTH AND ELEVENTH CHIMES RING THROUGH THE CRISP NIGHT AIR...
BONG
BONG
...AND SUDDENLY, FROM OUT OF SNOW-SWEPT NOTHINGNESS, THE GASPING THRONGS BEHOLD A HIDEOUS, HORN-BEAKED FORM, HURTLING FROM SOME LONG-DEAD EON INTO THE AWE-STRUCK PRESENT...

...TO SNUFF OUT ITS OWN BRIEF LIFE, LIKE SOME MAMMOTH, MESOZOIC MOTH ---HIGH ABOVE THE FEAR-STRICKEN MASSES..!!

GRRAAAARRRRRRRR
THE MONSTER'S ... DEAD!
BUT... WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
AND... THE DEBRIS! IT KEEPS FALLING..!
IT'S NOT FROM THE TOWER!
LOOK!!
A..A DINOSAUR... GLOWING... LIKE A THING AFIRE!
AND... IT'S SEVERAL STORIES HIGH!!
HOW... HOW??
BUT, HOWS AND WHYS NO LONGER MATTER... AS A GIANT BEHEMOTH, GREATER THAN ANY WHICH EVER ROAMED THE FOREST PRIMEVAL, NOW STALKS THE CONCRETE CANYONS OF NEW YORK... AND ALL FLEE BEFORE ITS ADVANCE...
14

...ALL SAVE ONE!!
BACK, CLEA... TO A SAFER PLACE!
YOUR MAGICAL POWERS AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO COPE WITH... THAT!
CAN ANYTHING STOP IT?
IT'S SO HUGE... LIKE A MADDENING NIGHTMARE!
"HE"? I DON'T...
BUT, IF IT'S THUS THAT THE LORD OF DARKNESS WOULD BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE REAL AND THE UNREAL...
NIGHTMARE?
YES... THAT MUST BE THE ANSWER!
HE SHALL FIND THAT BRIDGE GUARDED BY... DOCTOR STRANGE!
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW!
LET THIS OCCULT AURA PROTECT YOU... TILL I RETURN!
AND, MAY THE DEATHLESS VISHANTI... WATCH OVER YOU ... MY LOVE...!
15

NOW, LET THE WINDS OF WATOOMB HURL ME...
...INTO THE VERY FORE-FRONT OF MYSTIC MENACE!
HAH! AT LEAST, MY POWERS ARE NOT AFFECTED BY NIGHTMARE'S SPELLS!
LOOK! THAT MAN...
HE APPEARED... OUT OF NOWHERE!
WHAT CAN THAT MATTER?
HE CAN'T SAVE US NOW...NO MAN CAN!
BUT, EVEN THE UNEARTHLY AURA ABOUT THOSE BEASTS SHALL NOT PROTECT THEM FROM--
PERHAPS NOT THE MOST OF MEN...
MAY OSHTUR PRESERVE ME!
NO SOONER DOES ONE VANISH BENEATH MY MYSTIC BOLT...
THAN TWO MORE SPRING INTO EXISTENCE!

AND... THAT GIRL!
SHE'S FALLEN ... BENEATH ONE MONSTER'S CLAWED FOOT!
OOOHH!
BUT, NO MERE PHYSICAL THREAT CAN HARM ONE...
...WHOM THE SHIELD OF THE SERAPHIM SURROUNDS!
YET, WHY THIS FORM OF ATTACK BY NIGHTMARE... IF INDEED IT IS HE!
WHAT HAS HE TO GAIN, WITH MERE RANDOM DESTRUCTI..?
WHAT'S THAT?
DEATH! DEATH TO THE INFIDELS!
VIKINGS... SUCH AS ROAMED THESE SHORES AGES AGO!
AND SAVAGES... FROM YET ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE!
THEN, THERE IS NO MOMENT TO WASTE ON MERE SPECULATION..!

I WILL NOT HARM THEM IF I CAN...FOR THEY ARE ONLY HELPLESS PAWNS OF SOME DARKSOME KING!
BUT...
BY HOGGOTH'S GRIM CLAN... BY VALTORR'S DREAD CLIME...
LET ARMS AND THEIR MAN NOW FADE FROM THIS TIME!!
IT...ISN'T POSSIBLE!
HE JUST SPOKE...AND THEY VANISHED!
WE BETTER JUST BE GLAD THEY DID!
I'M BETTIN' THEY'D HAVE LAUGHED AT OUR BULLETS!
HOLD IT!
SOMETHING ELSE IS HAPPENING...!
NIGHTMARE!
THEN, STEPHEN STRANGE, YOU BREATHE A SINGLE WORD...AND IN THAT WORD, SUM UP THE FEARS AND SHADOWS WHICH HAVE PLAGUED MAN SINCE TIME OUT OF MIND...THE NAME OF...

AY, MORTAL FOOL!
AND NOW, OBSERVE... AS I MOMENTARILY LIFT THE VEIL THAT SEPARATES FACT AND FANTASY...
TO REVEAL...
ETERNITY!
STANDING TALL... SILENT... ENIGMATIC... LIKE THAT WHICH HE PERSONIFIES!
BUT, HE IS BOUND... HELD BY BLINDING CHAINS OF PURE COSMIC FORCE!
AND, BECAUSE HE IS HELPLESS... NIGHTMARE COULD UNLEASH SUCH MONSTROUS ANACHRONISMS UPON A HELPLESS EARTH!
BUT, HOW DID YOU CAPTURE HIM, EVIL ONE... AND WHY DO YOU TAUNT ME WITH SUCH IMAGES?

I'LL ANSWER ONLY THE SECOND OF YOUR QUERIES, FOOL!
MANY TIMES IN THE PAST, YOU HAVE ESCAPED MY VENGEANCE... BY FLEEING MY DARK REALM!
BUT, NO MORE! THIS TIME, WE BATTLE TO THE END!
HIS SCHEME IS FIENDISH IN ITS SIMPLICITY!
I COULD STAY HERE... WHERE I AM SAFE!
BUT, THOUGH MY MYSTIC POWERS WOULD PROTECT ME FROM HARM...
NO! THERE IS BUT ONE DECISION..
...AND I HAVE MADE IT!
WHAT OF THE COUNTLESS MILLIONS WHO WOULD FACE THE TERRORS OF TIME GONE MAD?
NIGHTMARE...
I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE!
AS I KNEW YOU WOULD, STRANGE... SO, LOOK NOW UPON THE LOATHSOME LIVING GAUNTLET YOU WILL FACE...
IN A STYGIAN WORLD WHERE ONE MISSTEP... ONE FATAL FLAW IN JUDGEMENT... SPELLS DEATH!!
NEXT: IF A WORLD SHOULD DIE...!

Dr. STRANGE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!™
GENE COLAN